

EMMANUEL - TALKING POINTS

- (a) Try to avoid discussing the "Englandspiel".
- (b) If forced to discuss it, avoid disclosing any more information than has been already disclosed officially by us: e.g. Sir Philip Nichols's statement if it has already appeared. (However, if Sir Philip Nichols's statement has still not been issued, we should not mention that he has been authorised to make a statement. The same, of course, would apply to our letter to Jenkins.)
(Statement has not yet been issued)
- (c) Avoid getting involved in discussion of the details, e.g. the Bingham family; the reason why the mill sign was not recognised; the "hand-writing" device; use of double agents, etc.
- (d) Take every opportunity to pour scorn on the idea that we plotted to exterminate Dutch patriots.
- (e) Support the suggestion that "Secret Services" are by nature disinclined to publicise their activities and methods - but only if this point is raised by the visitors.
- (f) Avoid discussing Van der Wiele, but if forced to do so, take the line that Van der Wiele and the Englandspiel are not connected, at any rate as far as we are concerned.
- (g) If asked why we will not issue a detailed statement, say that no responsible Dutchman believes this nonsense and that it is beneath our dignity to enter into the arena.

16th May, 1949

1949

WESTERN

Z 3814/G

12

NETHERLANDS

Z 3814/1051/29G

Mr. G. Jonker

Amsterdam

J/B No. 473.

Dated 102 May

Rec'd 202 May

Request for further information
regarding the case of Anton van
der WAALS, Dutch collaborator

Last Paper

Z 3738

(Minutes)

References

Z 2738/1051/29G

Mr. Jonker is the Dutch lawyer who was briefed to defend Antonius van der Waals in his appeal against the death sentence. He wrote to the Embassy at The Hague (see) and asked for information which could be used to support a plea of mitigation on van der Waals' behalf. He replied (see)

(a) that van der Waals had been employed by us as a double agent after the liberation of Holland,

(b) that we did not believe that van der Waals thought that Schreieder, the Head of the German S.S. in Holland, had ever been a British agent.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

2. Mr. Jonker has now replied that he is convinced that van der Waals was a dope, that Schreieder was in fact a British agent and that he intends to fight the case to the bitter end.

3. It is fairly clear that Jonker sees himself in the somewhat romantic role of fearless and high-minded advocate, determined to see justice done, come what may. He is prepared to fight against the obacuratism of the Dutch Government and the wiles of the "British Secret Service" and he will not shrink from tearing the veil from the most sacred mysteries. He is self-consciously Dutch and obstinate. Although he sees his client as a weak-minded man who was seduced by the dubious fascination of the "Secret Service" he has nevertheless swallowed a large dose of it himself. He has an eye for the drama and tragedy of war and believes that incidents such as the Dieppe Raid, involving the deliberate sacrifice of lives for the sake of an unspecified advantage elsewhere, are, if not commonplace, at least fairly frequent and certainly justifiable.

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

4. Jonker does not say how he intends to carry out his plans to establish the purity of van der Waals' intentions. He does not seem to be concerned with the fact that his client's acts were those of a traitor.

Van/

Van der Waal's appeal has been heard and the death sentence has been upheld; the final decision will be announced on June 8th. It does not seem, therefore, that Jonker will have another chance of defending him in an open court. It is possible, therefore, that he may join the ranks of the pamphleteers such as van der Storp and van der Groot (Noel de Gaille).

5. Jonker does not adhere to van der Storp's theory that the Englandspiel was a plot to eliminate Dutch patriots. However, he finds it necessary to have a comprehensive theory of some sort and the only hypothesis with which he facts, as he knows them, can be reconciled is that Schreieder was a double agent who was working for us. Schreieder's potentialities could not have been realised unless the Germans had good reason to trust him. In order, therefore, to establish his reputation with the Germans we perpetrated the Englandspiel betrayals. Jonker is not apparently moved to moral indignation by this - which reflects his Kiplingesque conception of the ethics of an Intelligence Service in war. He is merely concerned, in the interests of abstract justice, to see the truth revealed.

6. We have, of course, denied that Schreieder was working for the British Intelligence Service. Jonker does not believe this, although his evidence for believing the contrary is very slender, and seems to hinge on the following points:-

- (a) Schreieder had the semi-privileged position of a barber in a prisoner-of-war camp and once spent an inordinate amount of time cutting van der Waals' hair. The suggestion is that Schreieder had been imprisoned merely to hoodwink the Dutch, and that we encouraged his contact with van der Waals even at that late date.
- (b) Van der Waals was put in touch with Schreieder by Verhagen, apparently a British agent. (Who is Verhagen? Is it possible that Jonker suspects that he is one of the Bingham? Who is Mr. Bess?)
- (c) Schreieder, who is really responsible for the betrayals, was released from custody and evidence which could have convicted him was wilfully suppressed. The suggestion is that Schreieder was released at the behest of the British Government because he was in fact a British agent, and that van der Waals has been made the scapegoat, firstly in order to silence him and secondly to satisfy the Dutch demand for vengeance.

7. It seems likely that Jonker will pursue his enquiries along these lines and that if he starts a publicity campaign his main aim will be to develop the argument that Schreieder had been a British agent. If there is no truth in the suggestion that Schreieder was a double agent working for us, then whatever fresh "facts" Jonker might produce cannot affect us very profoundly. However, there remains the "element of oblique collusion" which Admiral Godfrey mentioned in his letter to Sir Hartley Shawcross (see 2 1729/G). The object of using double agents, as described by Admiral Godfrey, is similar to that described by Jonker, namely to obtain access to the secret councils of the enemy. If Admiral Godfrey was referring to

Schreieder,

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Minutes

Schreieder, and if Jonker contrives to unearth evidence to support this hypothesis we might find ourselves in an awkward position.

8. It might be as well to mention here that we have given Mr. Danker, the Chairman of the Dutch Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry, a précis of Lord Selborne's report on the penetration of S.O.E. operations in the Netherlands, and that Mr. Danker is strongly inclined to the view that the Englandspiel allegations are groundless. A recent Dutch press report (see 2 3711) stated that the Commission had found independent evidence which exonerates S.M.O. From the point of view of Dutch public opinion it is most important that the Commission should retain an attitude favourable to us. If, as a result of their investigations, the Commission found that there was any basis for the allegations of treachery on our part, our prestige in the Netherlands would suffer a severe setback, as it is most unlikely that the majority of Dutchmen would share Jonker's philosophic detachment. We have, up to the present, made a point of taking the Commission into our confidence and, as a result, our confidence has been reciprocated in the most gratifying manner. If Jonker were now to produce convincing evidence that Schreieder had wittingly or unwittingly worked for us, that basis of mutual confidence would be destroyed, with results which might even adversely affect Western Union defence plans. While, therefore, I have no positive reason for thinking that there may be aspects of Schreieder's activities which have not yet been disclosed, I think it is essential to make absolutely certain, as soon as possible whether or not Admiral Godfrey's remarks apply to Schreieder. If this is indeed the case, then we should consider telling the Commission.

9. To return to Jonker's letter; he has stated the points which are not clear to him, he has shown us the way in which his mind is working and he has given us notice that he intends to get to the bottom of the story. He has not asked us any specific questions and I do not think, therefore, that we need address a reply to him. His activities may cause us embarrassment, but there is nothing we can do to restrain him.

10. We should send a copy of Jonker's letter to Sir Philip Nichols, together with an indication of the line which we intend to take.

R. H. Mason

(R. H. Mason)
25th May, 1949.

Dr. Mason's account is admirably lucid.

What we want now is to be told, if only for our own information, is

— was Schreiner at any time, directly or indirectly, working for us?

Dr. Lee.

Johnstone
25.5

100
W.D. 1-1007

I agree. This extremely complicated and unpleasant subject shows signs of leading to dangerous results, and I am beginning to wonder whether it will not be necessary to ask the Prime Minister to order a confidential investigation into the whole matter. It is surely reasonable for the P.C. (or at least a Ministerial Dept.) to get to the bottom of the facts, especially since many of them are, I must suppose, known already in various degrees. I said we have

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Minutes.

Business reported in the forecast for tomorrow
- the action we should take. But
no serious political implications are involved
we must be sure of the ground on
which we stand.

Would it be possible to ask ~~that~~ for
a meeting with "C", or someone in the
most serious & responsible position with a
knowledge of these facts, in order to consider
the next step.

(St. Louis, Mo.)
2/1

This matter should not be forgotten
and we must keep it in mind.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Stamps 300/7.

Mr. Street.

These friends visited the proposed 1915 WPT-
which discuss this case with members of the
Western Department when early date in order to
decide when the future action necessary. They
feel, however, that any formal inquiry is
entirely to justify the considerable practical
difficulties of securing an exhaustive
examination of this very complicated affair
by producing any facts of importance at
various with these already committed to the
Foreign Office.

It has promised your friends are able to
give an unqualified assurance that none of
us not at any time either directly or
indirectly working for it.

57 Bell

(For Nigel Johnson).
14th June 1910.

Western Dept
(Mr. Street)

The proposal for a
meeting seems to me to ignore
the fact that there is no one
now working for Mr Hayter's
friends who was closely concerned
with the details of the S.O.E.
operations in Holland. All the
information so far produced has

(has to

had to be extracted from the S.O.E.
files by people only generally familiar
with the story. However, a meeting
might do much to clear the air and I will
make the necessary arrangements if you
will suggest a date. Mr Shuckburgh's
suggestion of a ministerial inquiry might
be discussed at the meeting.

Sd/- John E.D. Street.
20.6.10

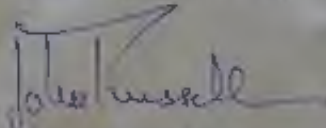
These papers returned to Western
Department on June 21st. The friends
are not very forthcoming. In fact a
certain evasiveness appears in their

reaction

reaction to our request for information. Nor do I think that the lack of continuity in their organization is really a good reason for their professed inability to help us over the past history of this ill-fated operation. There is no one now in Western Department who was there before 1947. - but we don't refuse requests for information about events previous to that date.

However... I think the best thing to do is to go ahead with the proposed meeting and see what we can get out of it. A day at the beginning of next week would probably suit best.

Mr Mallet might like to see these papers and perhaps preside the meeting.


(J. Russell).
22 June, 1949.

I have looked through these papers and I am not convinced that any useful purpose could be served by any further enquiry into the matter at present.

It seems to me that the four most probable explanations of the affair are

(1) that there was treachery in this country. I see no evidence to support this supposition.

(2) that there was a deliberate policy aimed at securing the elimination of agents and contacts in Holland. This seems to me to be too far fetched to be believed unless it were in connexion with

(3) a plan whereby certain agents were sacrificed in order to establish the reputation with the German authorities of the man Solweider, whom we wished to employ as a double agent.

(4) that through stupidity, sloth ~~and~~ or carelessness G.O.C. failed to make use of various indications which were available of the fact that their agents were falling into the hands of the Germans.

Of all these suppositions the last seems to me to be the least unlikely. But however this may be, the position now is that we have received a letter from a lawyer who is defending Feala in Holland, and that a Dutch Commission is investigating the affair. The letter seems to me to call for an answer: in fact if we were to attempt to answer it we might be led on into a very embarrassing discussion. As for the
Ends/

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Memorandum

Such enquiry, it seems to me that we can
await its result. If its effect is to
exonerate our Services then there is nothing
more to be done. If on the other hand it
attributes blame to our Services, we have
then some grounds for making a further
enquiry.

Mallet.

27th June 1942

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Memo.

SECRET

Sir G. Jess

I attach a file about certain operations of S.O.E. during the war which have become known by the name of the Englandspiel, of which you may possibly have heard.

The story briefly is that an agent dropped by S.O.E. in Holland fell into the hands of the Germans, and as a result a number of other agents subsequently fell into their hands, and a large number of Dutch resistance were discovered and executed by the Germans. Some stories have been circulating in Holland to the effect that this tragedy was caused either by treachery in the British Services or by carelessness there or as a deliberate attempt to build up a double agent who was employed by the Germans.

As you will see from my minute on the top paper, I do not think that we should, or need, take any action in the matter at present, but I wondered whether you could add anything to the story from recollections of your days with S.O.E.

Chuter

27th June 1949

I only heard about this story after the end of the war, but the incident is, I think, quite impartially summarised in Dr. Mackenzie's "History of S.O.E." extracts of which were shown to me about a couple of years ago since my name occasionally figured in the earlier part of it. I have no copy of this History with me, but I have no doubt that Mr. Hayter or Mr. Joy could produce one and it might be useful to turn it up.

Actually I do not think that I myself can throw much light on the affair since the Agent whose arrest started the business was only arrested a couple of months after I had myself returned to the Foreign Office (mid-April, 1942). Whether the ensuing calamity would have been allowed to go so far if Mr. Dalton and I had continued in Berkeley Square House, is a matter on which it is scarcely for me to pronounce! But I should say that while I was there I saw every incoming and outgoing signal from every Agent and whenever I thought that anything looked at all fishy, demanded a meeting of those concerned. Sometimes this meeting was held by the Minister.

/ The

The Germans certainly seem to have behaved pretty cleverly over the whole affair just as they did when they successfully fooled the Organisation during the winter of 1939-40 into believing that the Generals were on the point of staging a revolt against Hitler. This particular comedy, you may remember, ended with the arrest of two of the more important officials at Venloo.

(Handwritten squiggle)

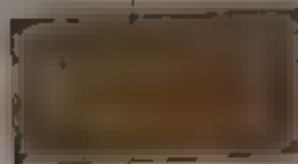
27th June, 1940.

to Dept

You might have a look at Dr Mackenzie's book on 'Voluntary' soldiers have any (how) to which gave away certain secrets.

M.P.R

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MR. G. JONKER
Advocaat en Procureur

AMSTERDAM Z
Van Eedenstraat 107 Telefoon 25287

Z 3814

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Jonker

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to Embassy The Hague Just a Plea Dec 10 9 44

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The following information was received by the
author from a source who has been reliable in the past.
The source has been in contact with the subject of this
report for some time and has been able to obtain
information from him which is being reported to you.
The source has been in contact with the subject of this
report for some time and has been able to obtain
information from him which is being reported to you.

14 A 4

(NO SOURCE)

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3814/1051/29C₄

Inter-Pass Review (Initial Entry) 14/01/49

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23814

March 11, 1945

The Schröder case has now been formally closed, after the Special
 at the trial just the case of the accused persons of the case, various papers report. There is no comment.

MEYER COURANT learns that the Council for the Defense of the wartime
 collaborator van der Waals has appealed for a revision of sentence.

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Nothing to be written in this Margin.

Z 3873 / G

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Z 3873, OS, 29C

but in a Robb
(Information Security)
the Agent

Mr Matthews
MAR/44

Dated 1st May
Recd 23rd May

Request for further information
concerning the "Englandspiel"
case

Last Paper

Σ 3814

References

PH 468 4/427

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1917

(Activities supplied)

«Ілгѣж»

Next Paper

(b) (5) DPP

[Faint handwritten notes, mostly illegible]

The letter to Mr. Brock is on PW 468/
4/929 (which I attach) and you will
see that a copy was sent to Mr. J. J. J.
Really it seems to me that the matter
ought to rest there now, but if you
wish to reply, the name to Mr. Rott
should I think, be Western Dept. Would
you like to have all these papers (on 468/4/929
and PW 594/4/929) returned to me when
they finally belong?

Mr. Russell

I think these two P.W. papers should
be returned to Mr. Green.

Russell
5/July

Please see draft letter to Mr. Rott

Russell
12/July

... .. circulated on April 2, 81
... .. that these papers should
... .. be

W. W. Buchanan

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Mr. Mason,
Western Department.

This refers to a letter which I
passed on to you. Perhaps the
two had better be carried.

Robert Matthews

Robert Matthews,

15th May, 1949

SSY

office

AGUE

15th May, 1949.

a copy of your letter
he "Englandspiel".
would let me have also a
with any background
as can imagine, this
concern here.

Col. Ross

ry.

NOTI

On occasion
of my return
to England
was of course
deliberate and

from "Truth".

We certainly do not propose to pursue
the matter any further, and our hope is that
the Legat said about this unhappy affair
the better. The Ambassador is, of course,
fully aware of our attitude on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

(R. A. Mason)

Mark
13.7

No. 182645

Our Ref. MAR/101.

105
Z873
BRITISH EMBASSY
Press and Information Services
29, LANGE VOORHOUT, THE HAGUE

Re: 101

11th May, 1943.

Dear Matthews,

Thank you for having sent to me a copy of your letter
HW 458/4/929 of May 4th to Brooks about the "Englandspeid".
I would however be very grateful if you would let me have also a
copy of the letter received from Brooks, with any background
to the request that there may be. As you can imagine, this
is a topic which causes very considerable concern here.

Yours ever,

Michael Robb

M. A. Robb,
Information Secretary.

Peter Matthews Esq.,
News Department,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1.

NOTE

On conclusion
of any reference
to "Englandspeid"
was of course
elaborate and

from "TRAM".

We certainly do not propose to pursue
the matter any further, and our line is that
The legal side about this unhappy affair
the better. The Ambassador is, of course,
fully aware of our attitude on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

(H.M. Mason)

H.M. Mason
12.7

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No. 23073/1051/293

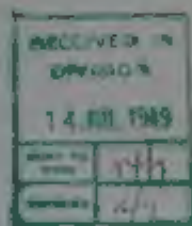
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| Restricted |
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Draft *K2. 593*

Mr. W.A. Robb,
Information Secy.,
The Hague.

From:-

Mr. S.H. Mason



NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
14 JUN 1949
177
2/1

*No mention
of any affair
the English
was of course
deliberate and*

+ cc please

14th July, 1949

Dear Robb,

Your letter of the 11th May to Peter Mathews of the News Department, reference ^{to Mathews} ~~was~~ ^{initially} ~~has~~ been passed to me. I apologise for the long delay in replying. The letter which Mr. Brooks wrote ^{to Mathews} passed on a copy of a letter which had been addressed to the Public Relations Officer at the War Office, asking for information about the "Englandspiel". The War Office had referred the writer to us and you have a copy of our reply. Mr. Brooks' letter had been inspired by a letter from a reader of "Truth" in Holland.

In reply to our letter Mr. Brooks said that "Truth" was glad to have such an explicit denial of the allegation of treasonary ^{that} ~~and~~ pointed out that our reply made no reference to Major Bingham, to whom his original letter had referred. There has been no further request for information from "Truth".

We certainly do not propose to pursue the matter any further, ~~and our line is that~~ The logs said about this unhappy affair the better. The Ambassador is, of course, fully aware of our attitude ~~on this subject.~~

Yours Sincerely,

(S.H. Mason)

[Signature]
127

SECRET

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

(Z 3873/1051/29 G)

14th July, 1949.

SECRET

Dear Robb,

Your letter of the 11th May to Peter Matthews of the News Department, reference WAR/WW about, the "Englandspiel", has been eventually passed to me. I apologise for the long delay in replying. The letter which Mr. Brooks wrote to Matthews passed on a copy of a letter which had been addressed to the Public Relations Officer at the War Office, asking for information about the "Englandspiel". The War Office had referred the writer to us and you have a copy of our reply. Mr. Brooks' letter had been inspired by a letter from a reader of "Truth" in Holland.

In reply to our letter Mr. Brooks said that "Truth" was glad to have such an explicit denial of the allegation of treachery but pointed out that our reply made no reference to Major Bingham, to whom his original letter had referred. There has been no further request for information from "Truth".

Our omission of any reference to Bingham was of course deliberate and we certainly do not propose to pursue the matter any further. The less said about this unhappy affair the better. The Ambassador is, of course, fully aware of our attitude.

Yours sincerely,

Heath Mason

(R.E. Mason)

H.A. Robb, Esq.,

The Hague.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.